

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 AID-05 CEQ-01 SOE-02 EPA-01 L-03 NSF-01
NSC-05 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05
OIC-02 /121 W

-----089918 070343Z /64

R 060953Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7663

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORC, AORG, EWWT, IMCO, BG

SUBJ: U.S. INITIATIVES ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION -
IMCO CONFERENCE FEB 6-17, 1978

REF: STATE 296444

1. ON JAN 6 EMBOFF CALLED ON JOINT SECRETARY OF
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND INLAND WATER-TRANSPORT
S.S.M. LUTFUL HUQ TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING IMCO
PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING IN LONDON AND SOUND OUT BDG
VIEWS, AS REQUESTED REFTTEL.

2. HUQ, WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARITIME AND INLAND
SHIPPING WAS JOINED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY MD. RAMJAN ALI
MIA, WHO SEEMS TO BE BDG'S EXPERT ON IMCO AND
POLLUTION MATTERS. RAMJAN HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM
AN IMCO SPONSORED, SIDA-FINANCED SEMINAR ON MARINE POLLUTION
IN SWEDEN, AND WAS WELL INFORMED ON SUBJECT.

3. HUQ AND RAMJAN SAID BDG HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER IT
WILL SEND A DELEGATION ON TO THE IMCO PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING,
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BUT INDICATED THEY HOPED TO DO SO. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S
QUERY ABOUT BDG'S REACTION TO U.S. PROPOSALS, THEY
SAID THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED FROM IMCO THESE OR THE PROPOSALS
OF IMCO MARITIME SAFTY COMMITTEE AND MARINE
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE. THEY ASKED FOR
COPIES OF U.S. DOCUMENTS.

4. IN GENERAL, THEY SAID BDG WAS INTERESTED IN ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURE, SINCE MARINE FISHERIES ARE AN IMPORTANT AND GROWING SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY, AND SINCE BANGLADESH EXPECTS TO LOOK INCREASINGLY TOWARD THE SEA FOR FOOD AND RESOURCES, BECUASE OF ITS LARGE POPULATION AND SMALL LAND AREA. THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO STUDYING U.S. POSITIONS. HOWEVER, THEY SAID, BDG WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE A NEW IMCO REGIME WHICH WOULD REQUIRE COSTLY MODIFICATIONS OF BANGLADESH'S FLEET OF THREE TANKERS, SINCE IT LACKS THE RESOURCES TO PAY THE COST. (NOTE: THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED BANGLADESH SHIPPING CORPORATION OWNS THREE TANKERS: ONE 93,000 DWT VESSEL AND TWO 20,000 DWT LIGHTERAGE TANKERS.)

5. RAMJAN SAID BDG PLANS TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO FORMULATE POLICIES AND POSSIBLY LEGISLATION GOVERNING POLLUTION IN BOTH MARINE AND INLAND WATERS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: BDG APPEARS WILLING TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE NEW IMCO TANKER SAFETY AND ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES WHICH WOULD NOT IMPOSE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR BANGLADESH. PLEASE SEND SUMMARIES OR TEXTS OF U.S. PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED AT FEBRUARY IMCO PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING SO THAT WE CAN PASS THESE TO BDG.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAFETY, POLLUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA00118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780011-0616
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780193/aaaadagv.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f9a01e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 296444
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3819620
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. INITIATIVES ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION - IMCO CONFERENCE FEB 6-17, 1978
TAGS: PORG, AORG, EWWT, BG, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f9a01e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014